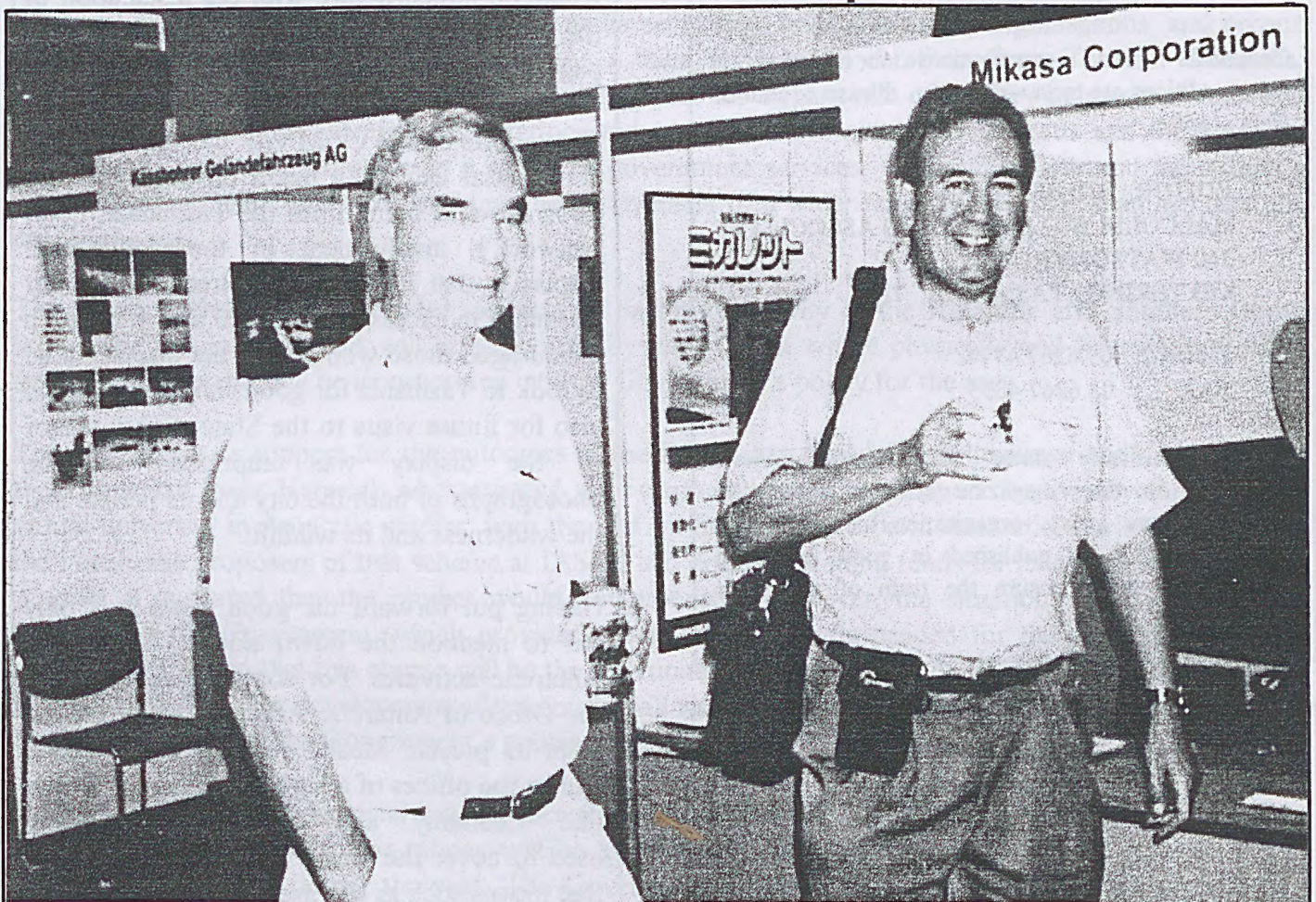


ICE BREAKER

No.12

September 2000



**The Air Link Starts Moving
and
The TPN at COMNAP in Tokyo**

ICE BREAKER

ICE BREAKER is published independently by Malcolm Wallhead and Associates as a quarterly magazine covering Tasmanian Polar and Southern Ocean related topics.

EDITOR
MALCOLM WALLHEAD

PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATOR
ANTHEA WALLHEAD

Comments and contributions for inclusion in future editions are most welcome. Please address them to:-

EDITOR, ICE BREAKER
MALCOLM WALLHEAD AND ASSOCIATES
240 WATSONS ROAD
KETTERING, TASMANIA, 7155

PHONE: 03 6267 4774
FAX : 03 6267 4335

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EDITORIAL

In this edition of ICE BREAKER magazine we bring the good news that the Australian Antarctic Division's Air Link is a step closer to reality with the announcement that the first Expressions of Interest and Request for Tender are being advertised both in ICE BREAKER and elsewhere. The report by Jo Jacka of the AAD on page seven gives further details of the developments that are taking place.

More good news is the increase to Tasmania's Antarctic infrastructure with the installation of the TIGER radar facility on Bruny Island. (See page 8.)

The reports on the COMNAP meetings and the commercial exhibition begin on page 11. The good news to come from the Tasmanian Polar Network's involvement in the commercial display is that it resulted in direct exports for Tasmania in excess of \$100,000 and in addition encouraged those who visited the display stand to look to Tasmania for goods and services and also for future visits to the State. Every visitor to the display was impressed by the photographs of both the city and its people and the wilderness and its wildlife.

Having put forward the good news it is only fair to mention the down side to Tasmania's Antarctic activities. For some obscure reason, the Office of Antarctic Affairs is to be moved from its present ideal location and be hidden amidst the offices of a high rise building. Words like "Economy" and "Efficiency" are being used to cover the move, however, the truth is that moves such as this are very unsettling to all concerned, including overseas visitors and customers alike. So much of the work that the TPN and the OAA have put in to reassuring export countries that we are a stable and reliable State to deal with has gone for nothing. (The full report begins on page 16 of this issue.)

MW

Cover photo: Dietrich Enss and Jack Sayers at COMNAP in Tokyo. Photo: Malcolm Wallhead

FROM THE PREMIER'S DESK

The Tasmanian Government recognises the importance of Hobart's Antarctic connection and remains keen to assist where it can, to increase the benefit for Tasmania, and have a positive impact on the generation of wealth and the creation of jobs.

The recent Governor's Forum on Antarctica, the sub-Antarctic and the Southern Ocean demonstrated the high level of awareness in the Antarctic community of Tasmania's potential in this area. The fact that this level of awareness is not true of the community as a whole was recognised and various solutions were suggested to increase community involvement in this important area. Officers in Tourism Tasmania and the Office of Antarctic Affairs are working on this question.

What was most pleasing about the Forum was the way it involved government at the commonwealth, state and local level; the University of Tasmania; parliamentarians; non-government organisations; and private industry, including the Antarctic media. At a state level, representatives from Tourism Tasmania; Antarctic Affairs; the Department of State Development; the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment; the Hydro-Electric Corporation; and my office have given the Antarctic and the Southern Ocean area significant exposure in a range of government services. This will allow and strengthen a whole-of-government approach, enabling the involvement of a wider range of expertise than has been the case in the past.

The forum made approximately 90 suggestions on future activity in the Antarctic and Southern Ocean area. The recommendations will be supported by government where physically and financially possible and, where relevant, will be incorporated into the Government's policy for the area.

The Government's support for the outcomes of the Forum has already been demonstrated. Members of the Tasmanian Polar Network who attended the Forum will recall the support for the development of a virtual university in Antarctic studies, with the first on-line course to be in Antarctic tourism. Following the Forum the proposers of that scheme at IASOS had difficulty finding funds for its continuation and, for a while, it appeared that the project would not proceed. However, the situation was brought to the attention of the Government, which provided the \$25,000 urgently needed for the continuation of the project. It is hoped that this course will be the forerunner of many others which benefit from the expertise of the University. The development of the course will also add to the Intelligent Island concept, which is a central component of the Government's policies.

During the forthcoming financial year the Government has allocated \$20,000 for the implementation of the outcomes of the Forum. This money will be available through the Office of Antarctic Affairs to fund projects as they arise during the year. The Government believes that this contribution will provide the necessary impetus to ensure the Forum's work maintains its momentum.

The Government sees the Tasmanian Polar Network as its Tasmanian partner in the development of this area. It looks to the Network to take the initiative in areas that are of potential benefit to its members and to create a positive environment for growth and development in the State.

On another topic, it is pleasing to note the added interest in Antarctic and Southern Ocean ship-borne tourism that has developed over the last twelve months. With the possible arrival of the "Southern Australis" and the "Sir Hubert Wilkin" in Hobart later in the year, the State may be the home port of two

Continued next page >

Antarctic-tour vessels. This, coupled with the two planned voyages by the "Kapitan Khlebnikov", suggests a significant rise in Antarctic tourism this season.

The recent IAATO conference also had a pleasing outcome, with many of the operators impressed by the Antarctic infrastructure within close proximity to the port, suggesting they would consider Hobart as a future departure port for journeys to the Ross Sea area.

All of this activity suggests a bright future for Tasmania's Antarctic potential and, as your Chairman Bill Lawson said in the last issue of *Ice Breaker*, what we have to do is pursue the delivery of the opportunities presented, for the good of the State and the people.

Jim Bacon MHA
Premier
Minister for State Development

A MESSAGE FOR ICE BREAKER READERS

The Tasmania Polar Network was well represented in July this year at the SCAR/COMNAP Symposium in Tokyo, Japan, which I had the pleasure of attending along with Mr Steven Kons MHA and the other delegates from Tasmania. I would like to thank the Premier Jim Bacon for his kind invitation to attend the Symposium and applaud him for this example of the continuation of the political bi-partisan arrangement which certainly works in the best interests of securing Antarctic opportunities for Tasmania.

Our Tasmanian Polar Network display stand at the Symposium was clearly the best and certainly in the prime location. Mr Malcolm Wallhead and Mr Antoine Guichard are to both be congratulated for their significant efforts in establishing and manning the stand. I am quite certain that not one of the several hundred delegates to the conference escaped Malcolm, Antoine and the other corporate delegates' persistent selling of the Tasmanian message.

It is always easy to take these things for granted but when you consider what Tasmania has to offer compared to other Antarctic destinations, we really are very lucky.

Tasmania is a showcase and the Antarctic opportunities are plentiful which I think that the members of the Antarctic treaty nations are now beginning to more fully understand. If there is any deficiency in Tasmanian polar affairs it is in our domestic region which clearly doesn't seem to know the significant economic and employment benefits that these Antarctic activities bring to Tasmania.

The Antarctic opportunities for Tasmania yield virtually the same benefits as the Atlantic Salmon industry but on an even more international scale and we need to sell that message to our Tasmanian community.

Peter Hodgman
Shadow Minister for Antarctic Affairs

TPN CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE.

Whilst we wait patiently for the Airlink opportunities for Tasmania to develop, I thought it may be useful at this juncture to reflect on the tremendous asset we have in Tasmania and Hobart in particular, in having the COMNAP Secretariat based here.

Remember that this is the Organisation which concentrates its attentions on supporting the various countries' Antarctic Programs in respect to their logistical and operational needs. To me as a 'commercial animal' and a passionate and proud Tasmanian, this spells opportunity for us all.

Through COMNAP we are able to glean information relating to opportunities for Tasmania to assist other countries in their southern endeavours. We enjoy personable and candid co-operation from Jack Sayers and he is always willing to share whatever information he is able recognising the inevitable commercial and other confidences which may apply. In my own case, I have never hesitated to ask Jack when I think there may be an opportunity for both SKM and Tasmania and I have found him always able to tell me something - even if it's to go away for now!!

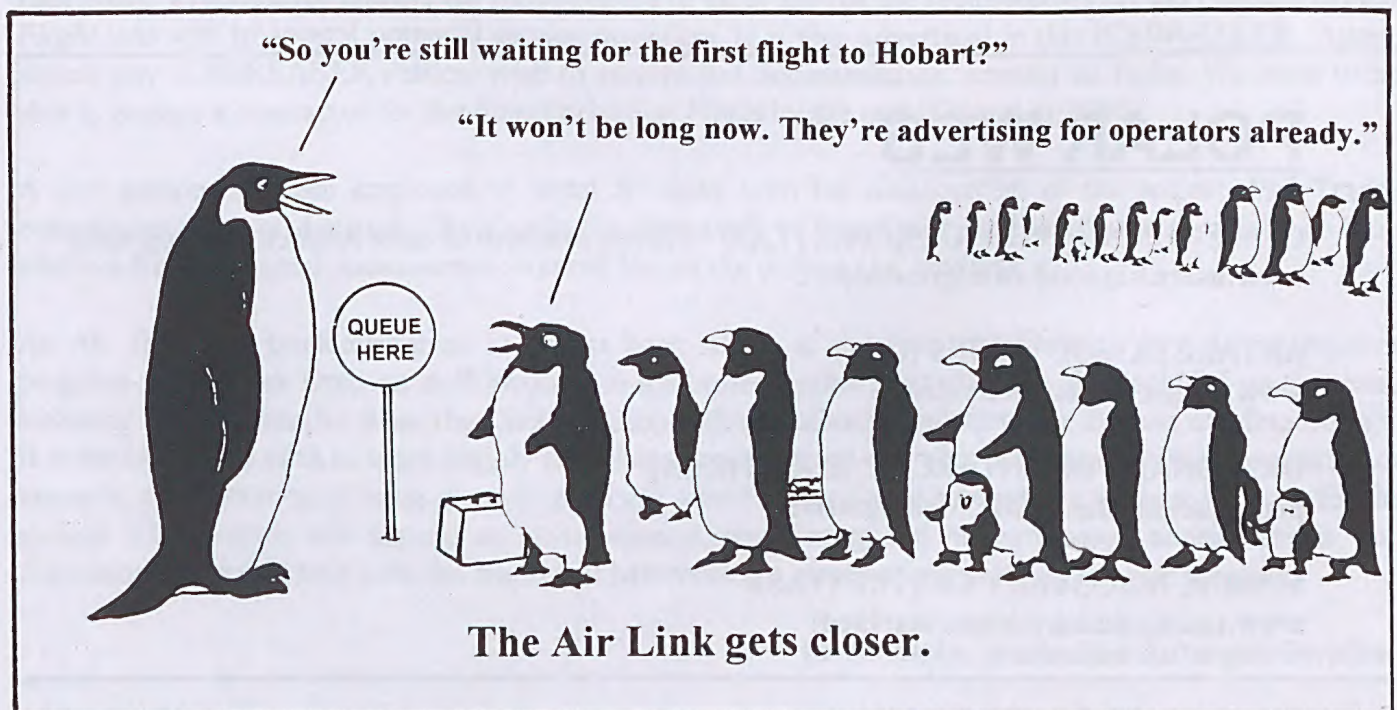
I wonder if other commercial members of the TPN have done this too?

I think it is helpful to think in terms of appreciating what we've got rather than focusing on what we don't have - yet! COMNAP is unique and to be valued particularly given that it is based on our doorstep.

Which leads me to the Tokyo Conference of COMNAP. I understand that Tasmania did well there in both profiling and commercial opportunities obtained. I look forward to reading more about it elsewhere in this edition of ICE BREAKER magazine.

In conclusion, I would like to remind everyone about the Tasmanian Polar Network's Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday 15/9/00 and urge a strong attendance please.

Bill Lawson. Chairman, TPN.



POLAR PUBLICATIONS

'ICE. A JOURNEY TO ANTARCTICA' by Stephen Pyne. Published by University of Iowa. 1986.

Arranged with alternating sections of science and humanities, this book details the variations of ice in Antarctica and discusses the effects of Antarctica's emptiness on humans.

'THE SOUTH POLE 2000' by Carolyn Hamilton. Published by Virgin Publishing.

Describes the trek from Hercules Inlet to the Ronne Ice Shelf by a 5 woman expedition led by the author.

'FOUR TO THE POLE! The American Women's Expedition to Antarctica 1992-1993' by Nancy Loewen and Anne Bancroft. Published by Shoe String Press. Price: c. \$US 25.00.

Describes the expedition by 4 women, including Anne Bancroft, sledging 1,100 kms from Patriot Hills to the South Geographic Pole.

'EXTREME SOUTH' by Ian Brown. Published by Australian Geographic. Price: \$34.95.

Ian was one of the 3 man expedition to complete the first Australian sledge journey to the South Pole. This is Ian's personal account of the difficulties found on the trek made last year with leader Peter Treseder and Keith Williams.

'FOOTHOLD ON ANTARCTICA'. The First International Expedition (1949-1952). Through the Eyes of its Youngest Member ' by Charles Swithinbank. Published by The Book Guild Ltd, Sussex, UK. Price: \$64.95. (Available through Readings, 309 Lygon St, Carlton, Vic. 3053.)

This book details a wide range of information about this first international Antarctic expedition, which included scientists from Norway, Britain and Sweden, as well as Australian observers. The Director of ANARE at the time, Dr. Phillip Law, was one of these observers and this experience assisted his planning of the establishment of Mawson Station in 1954. (Further details of this book are available in AURORA, Volume 19, No.3, March 2000.)

POLAR WEB

CLASSIC IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHS (TAS) - Posters available of early Antarctic photographs:
www.users.bigpond.com/grclennett

ANTARCTIC SOUVENIRS (USA):
www.antarctic.connection.com

DICTIONARY OF ANTARCTIC SLANG (USA):
penguincentral.com/MCMslang.html

MARINE DISCOVERY CENTRE (TAS):
www.tased.edu.au/schools/marinedi

AUSTRALIA - ANTARCTICA

AIR TRANSPORT NEWS

The Environment Minister, Senator Robert Hill released James Shevlin's report, *Antarctic Air Transport; 1999/2000 Investigations* on 27 June 2000, and by now most ICEBREAKER readers will have seen it on the Internet at <http://www.aad.gov.au/southbound/airlink/>. The report recommends a compressed snow runway with capability for wheeled inter-continental aircraft be constructed in the Casey area as the primary destination. Also, a blue-ice runway in the Bunger Hills area would operate as a secondary inter-continental runway and as a refueling location for intra-continental flights. That is, for feeder aircraft between Casey, the other stations and remote field camps. Hobart is chosen at this time as the centre of the operation and as the departure point from Australia. In addition the report recommends further monitoring of the region inland of Davis in the hope of finding a satisfactory blue-ice landing area.

Since the release of the report, work has primarily aimed towards preparing requests for tenders for provision of a *Familiarization Flight* during the 2000/2001 season, and for *Expressions of Interest* in providing the air transport link. The implementation strategy for the air transport system includes a public tendering process to select a service provider or providers for the system. This process will consist of two stages, an *Expression of Interest* stage and a *Request for Proposal* stage. *Expressions of Interest* are being called for this week. See the advertisement in this ICEBREAKER and in the Australian of Friday 25 August 2000. Should any readers of ICEBREAKER wish to obtain full documentation of the *Expression of Interest*, they should contact Jo Jacka at Antarctic Division.

Potential service providers who are short-listed as a result of the call for *Expressions of Interest* will be invited to travel to Antarctica during the 2000/2001 season on a *Familiarization Flight*. In February 2001, a *Request for Proposal* for the provision of the air transport system over a 5 year period (with a proposed 5 year extension) is planned to be issued to the short-listed organizations.

Last week, a request for tenders for the provision of all or part of the requirements for the *Familiarization Flight* was sent to several potential service providers. It is also advertised in this ICEBREAKER. Again, should any ICEBREAKER readers wish to receive full documentation, contact Jo Jacka. We hope to be able to engage a contractor for the *Familiarization Flight* by the end of October 2000.

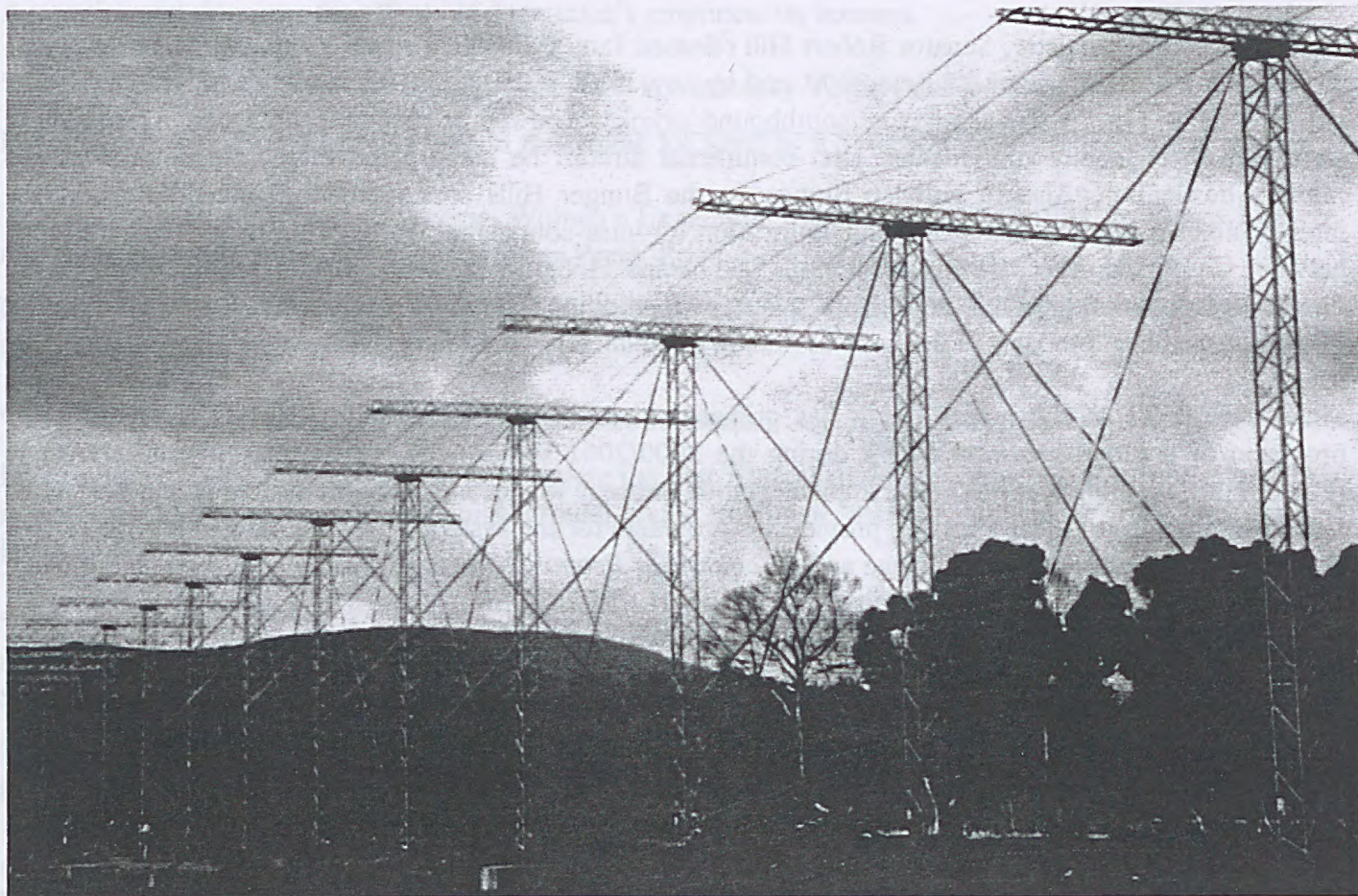
A new person has been employed to assist Jo Jacka with the management of the project. Phil Tracey commences work at Antarctic Division in the first week of September, and his first task will be to look after the Environmental Assessments required before the project can progress.

An Air Transport Implementation Team has been set up at the Antarctic Division in order to monitor progress. Apart from Division staff involved in the project, other specialists are also included on the team, including a representative from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and from the Bureau of Meteorology. It is the Division's wish to work closely with these organizations and with the future service providers. For example, consideration is being given to precisely where in the Casey area will be the best location for the airfield. The location will depend on environmental, engineering and meteorological considerations, and discussions are being held with the Bureau of Meteorology, aimed at pin pointing the best location.

Dr Jo Jacka, Australian Antarctic Division

TIGER

Tasman International Geophysical Environmental Radar



One part of the TIGER antenna arrays which focus towards Antarctica. Photo: Tony Hughson.

The opening of the TIGER, the latest acquisition to Tasmania's Antarctic infrastructure occurred on a windswept field on a property on South Bruny Island. Professor Michael Osborne, Vice Chancellor of Latrobe University representing the management team, performed the opening on 29 May 2000.

TIGER consists of two antenna arrays. The largest is an impressive array extending for 300 metres and rising to a height of 17 metres. The shorter is 50 metres in front of the larger and extends for 75 metres. In the centre is an adapted refrigerated container that houses the transmitters, receivers and computers.

The location of TIGER in Tasmania is the result of well in excess of five years work by the proponents of the scheme led by Professor Peter Dyson of Latrobe University and involving amongst others Dr Ray Morris of the Australian Antarctic Division. The project was funded by the participants and the Australian Research Council and was aided by a \$50,000 grant from the Tasmanian Government in 1995 and a smaller grant by the Australian Antarctic Foundation in 1996.

Much of the delay in establishing TIGER has been the difficulty of finding a site in Southern Tasmania. TIGER does not need a big site, however it needs to be secure, have reasonable year round access, have no significant obstructions between it and the coast and be serviced by power and telephone (for remote

operation). In southern Tasmania such sites are rare. In the end the syndicate had to purchase the site for the installation which was an additional cost to their original plans, as was the need to brace the towers with elasticised orange straps instead of the traditional guy wires to reduce the danger of bird strike.

TIGER is a radar system designed to study the near earth space or Geospace. The aim is to predict space weather by studying the region where solar winds interact with the earth's magnetic field. The region starts from approximately 60 kilometres above the earth's surface and extends for millions of kilometres into space.

The capacity to predict space weather is important as changes can have a major effect on communications, navigation systems, the reliability of aeromagnetic surveys and on satellite communication and performance. An additional aim will be to study the sea state of the Southern Ocean to assist meteorological forecasts.

TIGER will look at an area south of Tasmania that will reach from Bruny Island to Antarctica covering the Southern Ocean and the continental coast of Antarctica east and west of Dumont de Ville. This region incorporates the south geomagnetic pole.

TIGER is one of the SUPERDARN network (Dual Auroral Radar Network) that encircle the globe. The radar works as one of pair. Its partner is to be constructed in New Zealand sometime in the future.

TH

AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC DIVISION

REQUEST FOR TENDER 00/693 ANTARCTIC FAMILIARIZATION FLIGHT

The Australian Antarctic Division is seeking tenders from appropriately qualified organizations to conduct a "Familiarization Flight" to carry approximately fifteen (15) passengers to and within Antarctica in January/February 2001. The aircraft/s will be required to land on a snow ski-way at Casey, and a blue-ice landing strip at Bunger Hills.

Full details of the requirements can be obtained from Mrs Jenny Jones:

Telephone: 6232 3252

Facsimile: 6232 3256

Email: Jenny.Jones@aad.gov.au

Tenders close 2pm, 11/09/2000

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted

AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC DIVISION

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST 00/575 AIR LINK AUSTRALIA TO ANTARCTICA FLIGHTS AND SUPPORTING SERVICES

The Australian Antarctic Division intends to establish an Air Transport Link between Australia and Antarctica and within Antarctica. Expressions of interest from suitable providers are requested for the provision of these services. During 2001

Requests for Proposals will be solicited from respondents shortlisted as a result of this EOI. The initial contract will be for a period of five (5) years commencing in the Antarctic Summer of 2001/02, with an option to extend for a further (5) years.

Documentation and further information may be

obtained from Mrs Jenny Jones:

Telephone: 6232 3252

Facsimile: 61 3 6232 3256

Email: Jenny.Jones@AAD.gov.au

Expressions of Interest close 2pm, 02/10/2000

POLAR NEWS

CSIRO SALE

One of the CSIRO's marine research vessels, SOUTHERN SURVEYOR, may be sold on a lease-back arrangement in order to reduce operating costs, although there will be no cut-backs in planned projects involving marine research, fisheries, exploration and mapping work.

MACQUARIE WRECKS SITED

The maritime history of Macquarie Island is now available on a Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service's website called 'Shipwrecks, Sealers and Scientists'. Developed by writers Anne Morgan and Mike Nash and created by Fahan School students in Hobart, the site includes 43 stories in 3 separate journals, and can be viewed at www.fahan.tas.edu.au/macquarie-island/ until it is transferred the TASPAS server.

LIDAR SOUTHBOUND

This month, Australian Antarctic Division's atmospheric scientist Andrew Klekociuk will be dismantling the 30 tonne laboratory housing the Light Detection and Ranging Device (LIDAR), in preparation for its voyage to Davis Station in October. One of the main purposes of the LIDAR once it has been established at Davis, will be the transmission of pulses of light to penetrate as far as the mesosphere layer, 50-90 kms above Earth, where temperatures are as low as -150°. Analysis of data collected by bouncing light back from this layer will be made by physicists at the Antarctic Division and Adelaide University, and should result in further knowledge of changes linked to global warming.

CHILLY SLEEP

A submission about sleep research by a Tasmanian Antarctic Studies student, Mark Hemer, was selected as the winner of a National Science Week Project prize. Mark was one of 9000 participants in the competition and has won a return trip for two to Antarctica.

ANTARCTIC SQUID

A giant squid measuring 2 metres long and weighing 28 kgs, the largest complete specimen discovered to date, was found washed up near British Antarctic Survey's Signy Station in July. Although the remains could not be preserved, the squid's hard mouth piece, shaped like a parrot's beak, was cut off and taken for presentation at a seminar at Aberdeen, Scotland, by the squid's finder, marine biologist Amanda Lynnes.

AWARD NOMINATION

One of the Tasmanian groups nominated for the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships is the Australian Antarctic division and APEX, who prepared an exhibition highlighting Australian scientists' contribution to scientific understanding in Antarctica.

POLAR MICROBES

Scientists at the Antarctic CRC have discovered that Antarctica is a rich source of microbes, some of which produce high levels of Omega-3 fatty acids because their cell membranes need to adapt to freezing conditions. It may be possible for genes from these bacteria to be inserted in food crops to provide a new dietary source of these essential fatty acids, which are currently harvested from fish and cultured microalgae and used commercially in supplements and fortified food.

COOL COOK

Last month, Paul Cullen, Executive Chef of the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart, began his training at Station Leader for 15 months at Casey Base in Antarctica. Paul will swap his job as chef to be in overall charge of up to 70 staff and scientists at Casey during summer, as well as wintering over with 20-30 people. His only chance to cook will be when it is his turn to relieve the regular chef, who has one day off each week.

MERGER

Australia's Peregrine Adventures is merging with UK-based Exodus Travel, with hopes of capturing a larger share of Ship-based Antarctic tourism.

COMNAP in Tokyo

Over 270 Antarctic scientists and operators from around 30 countries descended on Tokyo in July to attend the annual COMNAP and SCAR biennial meetings. The parallel meeting of both organizations presents a unique opportunity for an informal exchange on the views, plans and aspirations of the various individuals and agencies on future directions and challenges.

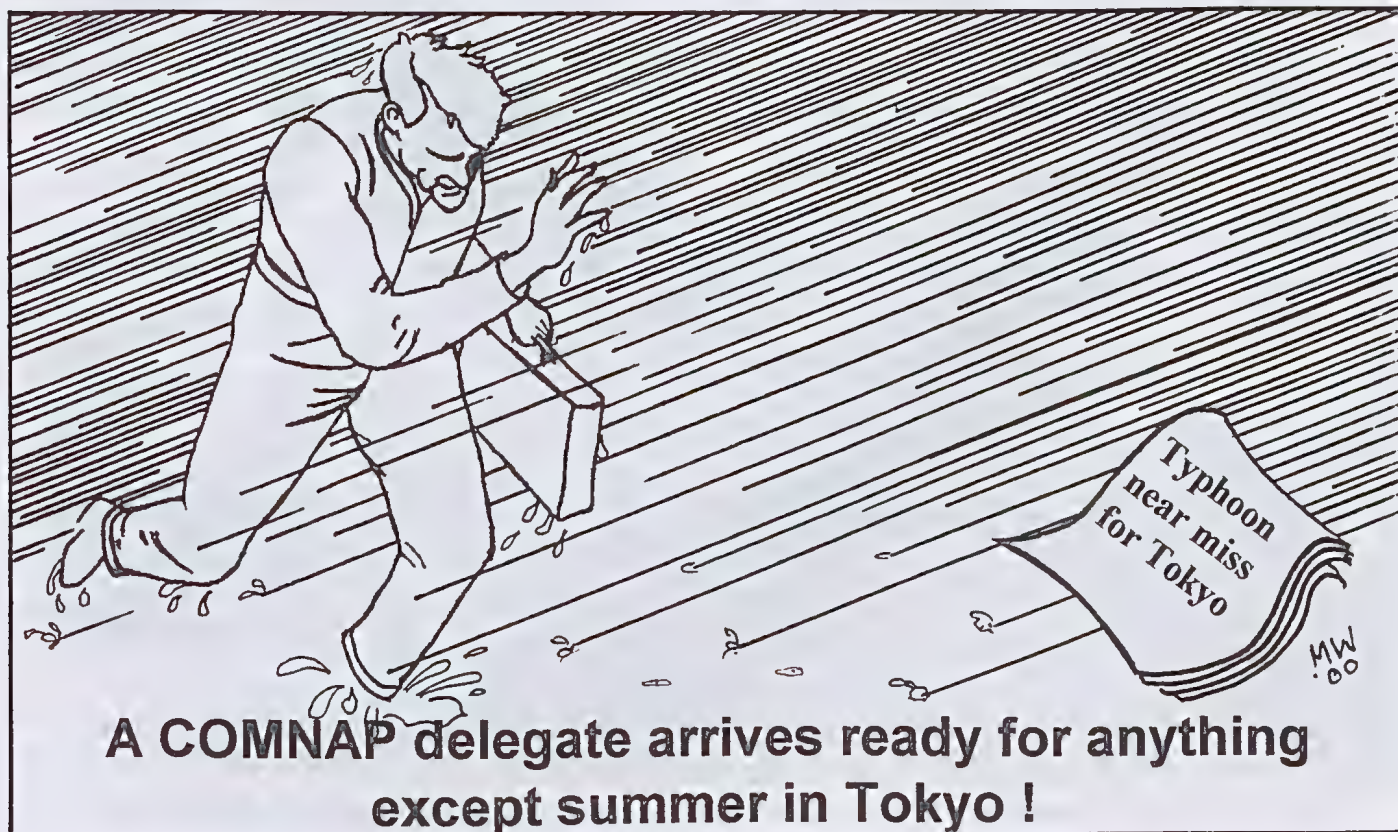
Among the more fascinating projects currently under investigation is one on the future exploration of Antarctic sub-glacial lakes. Over 70 of these lakes have been discovered but attention is currently focused on the largest, which lies over 3,600 m below the ice sheet at a remote inland site where the Russian station Vostok is located.

Lake Vostok (as it has been called) is about 285 km long and 65 km wide. The principal challenge is to be able to undertake exploration of the lake in a non-contaminating fashion to obtain physical, chemical and biological measurements and to provide water and sediment sample retrieval. SCAR has defined the scientific objectives of the proposed work and has sought COMNAP assistance in convening a workshop during the next 12 months to provide guidance on the technologies needed for environmentally sound sample retrieval and project logistics.

COMNAP also held its biennial Symposium and Trade Exhibition at the Tokyo meeting. The Symposium indicates that a great deal of effort is being applied by national operators on energy management and alternative energies (especially wind power) with some impressive results. The TPN had an attractive stand in perhaps the best location of the Trade Exhibition.

The next joint meetings of SCAR and COMNAP will be held in Shanghai from 13-18 July 2002.

Jack Sayers, COMNAP



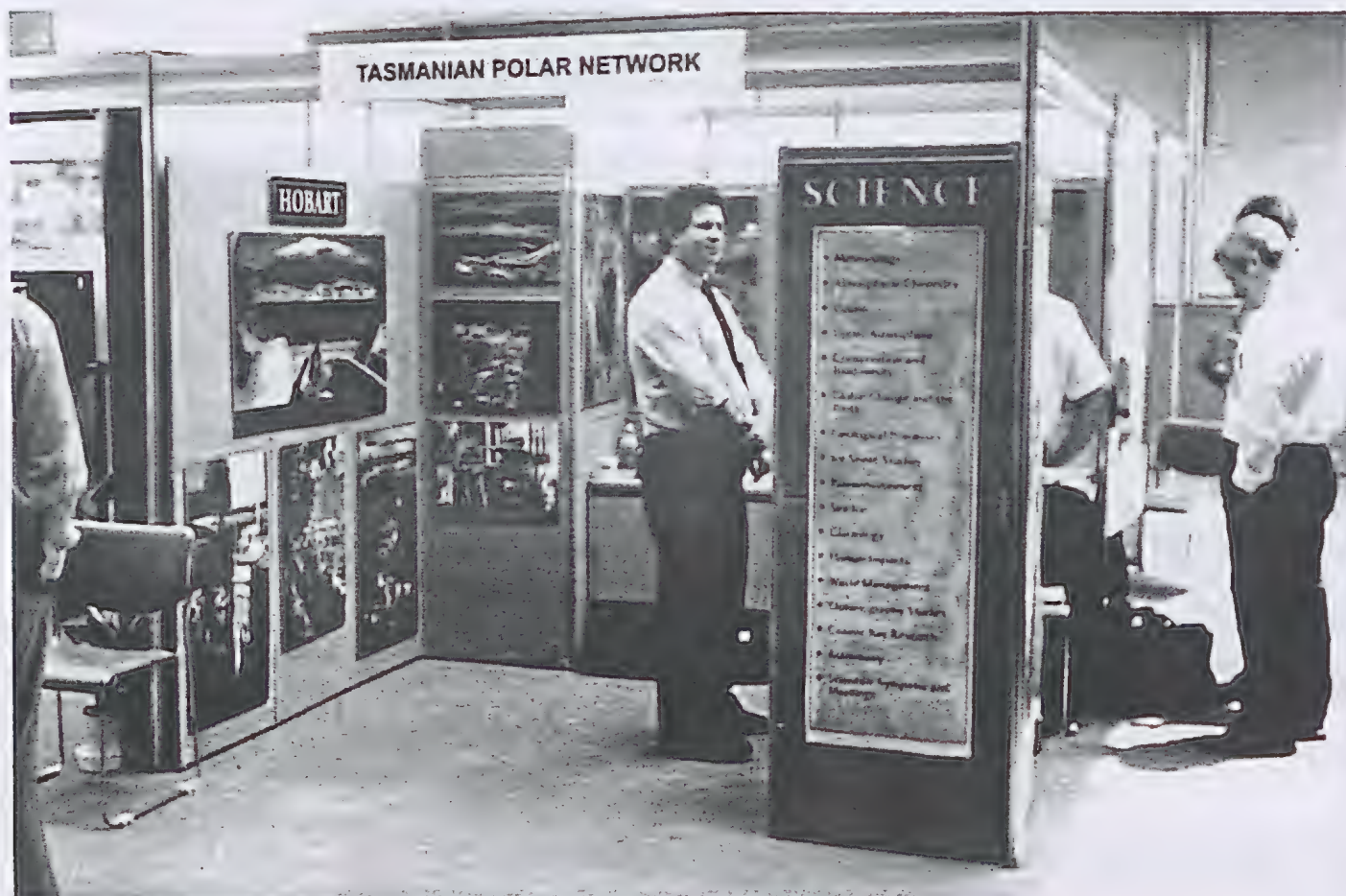
SCAR/COMNAP COMMERCIAL EXHIBITION

A personal report of the Tasmanian Polar Network's Tokyo Exhibition by Malcolm Wallhead

Upon arrival at the booth on Sunday 9 July 2000, the third wall (which the TPN had asked to be removed) was still in place. Mr Ippei Sasaki (in charge of display arrangements) was very accommodating and had this third wall removed within a short time, by the booth builders.

A second surprise was that the booth walls were not Velcro-acceptable unless using the double-sided Velcro dots. Also the upright joining poles of the booth panels were large and intrusive. The TPN were very fortunate to have the use of the Office of Antarctic Affairs, Velcro-acceptable, display panels. These panels could not be set up in the way that had been planned in Hobart and it was decided to work on a layout of two square columns and two flat walls. This was sufficient to make the display construction interesting to look at and at the same time allow us to have the same amount of wall display area as would have been available with three full walls.

The display booth was erected and the picture layout mounted temporarily on the walls on the Sunday afternoon as planned, pending the delivery of the large Hobart picture which Antoine Guichard had brought to Japan with him. The picture was delivered to the booth and the other pictures mounted in a balanced manner on the Monday morning prior to the first COMNAP visitors arriving at the exhibition.



The TPN display booth set up ready to receive the first visitors on Monday 10 July 2000.



The SCAR/COMNAP “Icebreaker” reception provided an excellent meeting place for old friends.

A happy coincidence of sizes was that the table provided was exactly three display panels long and fitted against the ‘back’ wall without intruding in any way. This table was used to display all brochures and the hidden area underneath enabled us to store the spare brochures. (In the same way, the back corner column of the booth allowed us sufficient space to store unused panels sections.

It is my opinion that the booth’s position was the best placed of all booths at the exhibition and with both sides open, visitors did not feel trapped by entering an enclosed booth, yet were intrigued to find what was on the other side of the front column.

All visitors appeared to be attracted by the non-Antarctic-related pictures and on several occasions these intriguing photos enabled me to strike up conversations with strangers using different aspects of the display. On occasions the golfing photograph provided excellent opportunities by discussing the left-handed golfer, the ravine that the ball had to cross, the worried expression on the “wife’s” face and the red of the sky indicating sunset, for example.

Likewise, the large photo of Hobart with Mt Wellington in the background allowed the position of the lookout to be indicated and related to the photo of Hobart taken from the lookout on Mt Wellington. In this way it was possible to indicate approximate positions of Antarctic-related institutes and businesses, and hotels and other landmarks. On at least two occasions I was able to show where we boarded the Governor’s launch and track part of the route that we took during boat trips for visitors. It must be noted that the hospitality received in Hobart had been talked about in Japan and was well remembered by those who had been here.

Continued over >

Every visitor to the booth who had been to Tasmania spoke enthusiastically about the wine, the boat trips, the Government's receptions and particularly the receptions given by the Governor of Tasmania, Sir Guy Green.

I had sent invitations to several people who had participated in Hobart's ISCORD Symposium from Sapporo, Hokkaido Island, to visit the TPN stand in Tokyo and it was good fortune that two of them had business in Tokyo during that week. They visited the TPN booth and I was hosted to some return Japanese hospitality which further enabled the cementing of Tasmanian/Japanese relations.

Not only did all visitors to the booth who had visited Tasmania have a desire to return here again, but many who had never been to Tasmania expressed a strong desire to visit in the near future. Word-of-mouth advertising was working very much to Tasmania's benefit especially from those who had received special hosting on their visits to Tasmania.

The table that had been supplied as part of the booth package was of sufficient size that the Igloo Satellite Cabin brochures, which were available in 8 different languages, were laid out alongside the TPN packaged brochures and proved to be a useful tool in interesting delegates in taking a TPN brochure for later scrutiny. A necessary part of any such conference is the large mass of documentation that must be carried about (and eventually taken home) and many delegates had no desire to acquire extra weight if it could be avoided. However, it was discovered that though they often rejected the offer of a TPN brochure to start with, once they realised that there was a product brochure in their native language which they were delighted to accept, it was a simple matter to point out that one could be pocketed inside the front cover of the TPN brochure thus still making only one brochure to carry home! ICE BREAKER subscription information was also included in this manner. This ploy worked successfully for me on many, many occasions.

The COMNAP conferences were taking place not only on different floors of the Central Building at the National Youth Centre, but also in a different building on the same campus. This meant that even though several ploys were used to attract these other delegates to the commercial exhibition, including free beer after hours one evening, possibly as many as half of the 350 delegates never visited the exhibition hall. In addition, the list of participants at the conference was not given out to exhibitors until one hour before the display booths were dismantled, making it impossible at that stage to seek out prior personal and business contacts to interest them in the TPN display.

Despite the above problems, it is my personal opinion that the TPN involvement in this commercial exhibition, though very expensive, was worthwhile, and should result in benefits to Tasmania and to the TPN in the future.

The ten remaining TPN brochures, with product sheets enclosed, were taken to China by Peter Hodgman, Shadow Minister for Antarctic Affairs, for distribution to his acquaintances over there.

The repackaged display panels, the photographs, and all relevant documentation were collected by JTB Air Cargo early on Friday afternoon for return to Tasmania, prior to my departing for Narita Airport for my own return home.

Foot Note: Since preparing this report, I have had communications with many of those delegates who visited the TPN booth in Tokyo and several have told me that they will be arriving in Tasmania for visits here during the next two years. I only hope that we can host them as well as we have done with visitors in the past.

POLAR NEWS

NEW FOR OLD

The headquarters for an new association established to recognise the courage, sacrifice and devotion of men and women who have supported American Antarctic Research from 1954-1999 has been set up in Pensacola, Florida, USA. The Old Antarctic Explorers Association (OAEA) is now applying for "Non-Profit Organisation" status in order to obtain a LC-130F aircraft for an "Operation Deep Freeze" exhibition. For further details contact penguin64@worldnet.att.net

ANTARCTIC LAKE SWIMMING BANNED

Lake Vanda in the Wright Valley, Antarctica, hosted the Royal Vanda Swim Club for nearly 40 years, but the club has been closed and the 'clubhouse' removed because of rising lake levels, new environmental protocols and potential human contamination of the water. Operated by NZ science teams and supported mostly by Americans from McMurdo Station, members qualified by stripping in subzero temperatures, immersing themselves in Lake Vanda, streaking back to Vanda Station and signing the Initiates Roster before dressing again. Over 2300 members were recruited before the club was closed, and in 1994-5, the station and 10 tonnes of contaminated soil were removed. A NZ Antarctic Historian has written a book to ensure the station's folklore and scientific achievements are not forgotten.

MORE POLAR TOURISM MERGERS

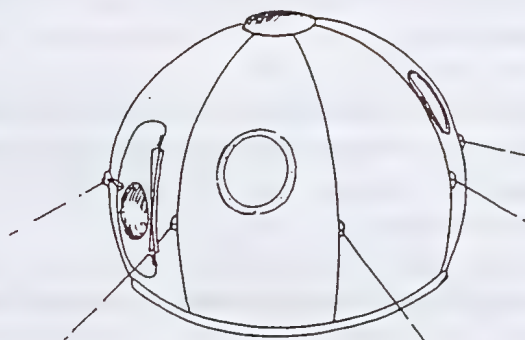
Adventure Network International (ANI), founded in 1985, was recently purchased by a US travel conglomerate called Grand Expeditions Inc. In a bid to dominate adventure tourism market operators, Grand Expeditions has acquired or merged with 7 smaller companies. However, ANI will still retain its name, senior managers and travel programmes.

ANI's sister company, Polar Logistics, was not included in the acquisition and will continue to support government operations as before.

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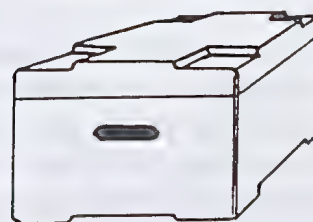
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POLAR FIELD EQUIPMENT

YET ANOTHER MOVE!

Both the Office of Antarctic Affairs and the COMNAP Secretariat have been advised that they are to be moved from their existing premises in Suite 25/26 Salamanca Square and are to be relocated to the eighth floor of the Department of State Development's Head Office in the ANZ Building at 22 Elizabeth Street.

According to a communication from Tony Hughson of the OAA:- "The move is associated with increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department and saving costs. The move is expected to be "before Christmas", but the exact date will depend on a number of issues associated with refurbishing the 8th floor of the ANZ Building.

"This move has a couple of implications for the Tasmanian Polar Network. The Network will need to decide on a new address for its Headquarters and advise the Commissioner of the change and fairly obviously the existing committee meeting facility will no longer be available after the move."

Unfortunately the implications for the Tasmanian Polar Network and for Tasmania generally spread much wider than this.

INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Australia, and Tasmania in particular, is very highly regarded for the quality of the scientific research undertaken and published worldwide. In addition Tasmania has gained an international reputation for its friendliness, for the ease of access to Government, to the Research Institutions, the Secretariats and private enterprise alike, and for the co-operative attitude of the States' political parties in polar activities, all of which has placed the State in a unique position in world Antarctic Affairs. Such a reputation does not occur overnight, but develops through a long period of the people concerned being able to trust that the situation will remain stable.

This open access and friendly atmosphere, particularly in the Office of Antarctic Affairs, has encouraged frequent visits to them by several overseas Polar Research Institutions' expeditioners and operators seeking information and advice on a wide range of polar related topics, as well as about facilities available in Tasmania. In addition, the offices have been used for meetings and group discussions by visiting nations which has encouraged their repeated use of Hobart as a port of call on their voyages to or from Antarctica.

To the International Polar Community, the move of the Office of Antarctic Affairs from the Salamanca Square offices into a common utility office block can only be seen as a downgrading of facilities and a feeling that State Government support for Polar Affairs is waning. This in turn might create uncertainty at the very time when Tasmania has to look to overseas trade if it wants to expand its polar activities.

BUSINESS IMPLICATIONS

The move to the ANZ building will be the fifth relocation of the OAA since its inception. Not a stable situation. Of greater significance however, this move also takes the Office away from its prime location of 3 years in Salamanca Square, next door to Antarctic Adventure (which has recently been repurchased by a State Government operated company), and within the Sullivan's Cove precinct which continues to be the preferred area for an increasing number of Antarctic and Southern Ocean-related businesses and tourist facilities.

The present offices of the Office of Antarctic Affairs serve as a "Shop Front" for Polar Affairs in this State. The offices enable the bringing together of State Government and private enterprise, and with the inclusion of COMNAP, enable International Research Institutions access to this broad cross-section of the polar community.

Tony Hughson's dual role as Director of the Office of Antarctic Affairs and Secretary of the Tasmanian Polar Network has been invaluable to the increase in international recognition of Tasmania as a vital player in Antarctic activities, yet it is disconcerting to know that the Labor Government did not discuss the OAA's move with any of the TPN members prior to the announcement being made. This is despite Antarctic business earning over \$80 million a year for Tasmania, despite the OAA and TPN working hard to ensure that Hobart International Airport is the preferred Australian site for the establishment of an airlink with Antarctica, and despite two shipping companies planning to use Hobart as their home port for Antarctic tourist and research cruises!

When such a mutually beneficial relationship has been established, one wonders who or what caused this abrupt excommunication to occur between a government office's communications with private enterprise.

GOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The Office of Antarctic Affairs was established in 1993 when the Liberal Party governed Tasmania, and it was Peter Hodgman, the inaugural Minister for Antarctic Affairs, who actively encouraged a bi-partisan attitude towards Antarctic activities, for the benefit of Tasmania as a whole. Together with the first Shadow Minister for Antarctic Affairs, John White, Peter took every opportunity to draw international attention to Tasmania's capacity for providing a broad range of polar expertise. The establishment of the Tasmanian Polar Network, also in 1993, brought together for the first time representatives from Government departments, research and education institutions, as well as providers of polar goods and services, all of whom aimed to be actively involved in Antarctic matters, and not just be another discussion group, as had occurred previously.

When the Labor Party came to power in 1998, Jim Bacon, Premier of Tasmania, included the Ministry of Antarctic Affairs as one of his Portfolios, and Peter Hodgman became the Shadow Minister. Although the bi-partisanship attitude to Antarctic activities has continued since the change of government, the move of the Office of Antarctic Affairs to the Labor Government's Department of State Development's Head Office building may well be misinterpreted by the local polar community as a decline of the State Government's interest in Antarctic affairs.

The economic reasons cited for the OAA's move could also be questioned, considering that the office suite in Salamanca Square was originally contractually linked with the purchase of Antarctic Adventure next door, so if the OAA is not occupying them, which other government department has been chosen as more suitable? Who else is best located there, other than the OAA, the COMNAP Secretariat and possibly soon the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR) Secretariat, which is due to be moved from its UK base and for which Tasmania is making a serious bid?

ICE
BREAKER

POLAR NEWS

ALBATROSS SAFEGUARDS

A draft agreement and action plan to save albatrosses from extinction was drawn up by representatives from 13 countries in Hobart recently. Opened by Federal Environment Minister Robert Hill on July 10, the meeting focused on the impact of long-line fishing practices on the number of albatrosses, four species of which have been listed as endangered and a further 13 as nationally vulnerable. Despite acknowledging the difficulties within some of the negotiations to be made, Australia is urging a resumption of talks to finalise the agreement in the next few months.

TASMANIAN CHOICE

A CSIRO marine research scientist, Dr Shirley Jeffrey, has been awarded the Gilbert Morgan Smith Medal for her research on microscopic marine algae. Dr Jeffrey has also been elected to the American National Academy of Sciences, and is the third Australian woman to join the 2000 member organisation.

CARE-RING

The State Government has approved a 3 nautical mile marine reserve around Macquarie Island, to protect the food and nursery resources for the island's birds and animals. The 74,715 hectare reserve also protects Macquarie Island's World Heritage Area listing.

WHALE LOSS

Australia, NZ and Britain, were amongst the countries who lobbied for a whale sanctuary in the South Pacific but failed to secure enough votes to establish this haven at the International Whaling Commission meetings in Adelaide in July. Despite strong advertising campaigns launched by both sides, it was Japan and countries in agreement with Japan's arguments to continue whale slaughter, irrespective of diminishing numbers of some species, who were victorious. Japan has already begun a new season's commercial whaling in the South Pacific.

NEW SCIENCE PRIORITIES

Ownership of Antarctic Adventure has now been transferred from Macquarie Leisure Trust to a new government-owned company called Antarctic and Southern Ocean Science Centre Pty Ltd. The new board members, appointed from the Dept. of State Development and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, intend to re-establish the Centre's priorities on activities that raise the profile of Antarctic and Southern Ocean research and its economic contribution to Tasmania.

PETREL POWER

One of the many positive results of the feral cat eradication on Macquarie Island has been the sighting of nesting grey petrels, birds which have not been observed on the island for more than a century. Cats have not been sighted since November last year, thus enabling the large burrow-nesting seabirds to breed without disturbance over winter.

HOME PORTS

International indicators of Tasmania's acceptance as an Antarctic-focused island are the Russian icebreaker KAPITAN KHLEBNIKOV moored over winter at the Port Huon pier and the French ship L'ASTROLABE moored at Princes Wharf near Australia's AURORA AUSTRALIS.

ANTARCTIC IMAGES

Prints of Frank Hurley and Herbert Ponting's Antarctic photographs are available from Classic Image Photographs in Hobart. Measuring 600 x 800 mm and produced on heavy-weight gloss board, using a 3 colour process for accurate reproduction of the original photos, each print costs \$38.50. For further details contact Graeme Clennett on (03) 6225 3569.

DANES' TURN

Although at least 10 expeditions in the past 12 years have traversed the route from Hercules Inlet to the South Geographic Pole already, 2 Danes are planning to haul sledges over this route, starting in November this year. The website, in Danish, is www.sydpolen.dk



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POLAR NEWS

ANTARCTIC FAMILIES

Expeditioners' families and friends who are interested in meeting other families with members in Antarctica can contact the Tasmanian branch of 'Antarctic Families and Friends', a support group which meets monthly for lunches and companionship. For further details contact H.L.Cowled, the current State Co-ordinator, on (03) 6272 3096.

PENGUIN STAMPS

Featuring on new postage stamps released in July are Emperor and Adelie penguins, the only 2 species of penguin which breed in the Australian Antarctic Territory. The stamps are available from the Australian Philatelic Bureau.

POLAR FOOD SUPPLIERS

Since 1995, the Defence Nutrition Research Centre in Scottsdale, Tasmania, has provided not only freeze-dried ration packs for Defence Force personnel, but Adventure Foods to cater for the backpacker market and Antarctic expeditioners. A range of 10 meals is now available as emergency rations for field workers or for replacement meals if a station's kitchen is unexpectedly unusable.

Food is prepared in batches of 600 serves, then 64 trays, each with 4 kg of frozen food, are loaded into the freeze drier at one time. Air is sucked from the chamber to create a vacuum of 1000th air pressure so that the resultant product has less than 2% moisture content and weighs about 20% of the fresh product. The food is then packed into nitrogen-filled drums, before being vacuum-packed into pouches, ready for distribution. The freeze-dried rations all have a shelf life of 12 years.

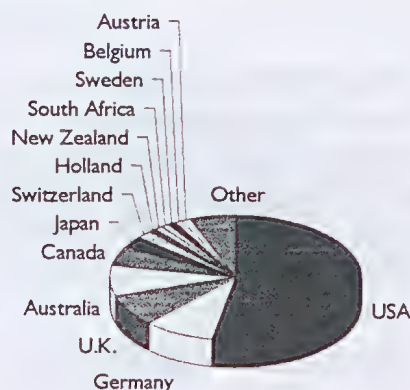
NEW BASE PLANNED

The Czechoslovakian Republic is proposing to establish a research station on Turret Point on King George Island, and construction of the \$US 1 million solar and wind powered base is due to start in the 2003-4 season.

POLAR TOURISM INCREASE

A record number of passengers, staff and crew experienced Antarctica in non-government-based activities during the 1999-2000 season. Three-quarters of the approx. 19,300 passengers were transported by ship, with a further 4,770 travelling by air. As can be seen in the following graph, 53% of the total ship-based tourists were from USA.

**Ship Based Antarctic Tourism -
National Percentages 1999-2000**



LETTERS RECEIVED

ICE BREAKER is pleased to have received several complimentary comments in the mail this year. These include:

"Thankyou very much for sending us a copy of a very informative magazine." (Tasmanian Shipping Supplies).

"We look forward to reading and contributing to the journal this year." (Arete Training & Solutions).

"I wish you every success in developing your publication further." (Qantas Airways Limited).

ANTHEA'S WORD

The first World Tourism Congress will be hosted in Hobart in November 2001. It will be interesting to see if Tasmania will use this opportunity to draw attention to some of the Antarctic-related tourist ventures now being developed!

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POLAR CALENDAR

5	September	2000	Last date for submitting nominations for TPN Committee Members to Office of Antarctic Affairs. Hobart, Tas.
9-15	September	2000	Station and Field Training for ANARE 2001.
11	September	2000	20th Anniversary of the signing of CCAMLR by Australia.
11-13	September	2000	2nd International Symposium on Ground Freezing and Frost Action in Soils. Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. Contact isgf2000@gc.ucl.ac.be
11-15	September	2000	Special Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) and meeting of the Committee for Environment (CEP). The Hague, The Netherlands.
13-15	September	2000	International Workshop on Debris-Covered Glaciers. Seattle, Washington, USA. Contact nakawo@ihas.nagoya-u.ac.jp
15	September	2000	TPN Annual General Meeting. 11.00 am. Antarctic Adventure. Hobart, Tas.
3-5	October	2000	2nd International Ice Charting Working Group. Reykjavik, Iceland. Contact thor@vedur.is
4-6	October	2000	American Polar Society Bi-Annual Meeting. Boulder, Colorado, USA. Contact: mckie@cires.colorado.edu
23 3	October November	2000- 2000	CCAMLR meetings. Hobart, Tas.
30 1	October November	2000- 2000	Ice-drilling Technology 2000, International Workshop. Nagaoka, Niigata, Japan. Contact azuma@mech.nagaokaut.ac.jp
26	November	2000	ABCTV. 6.00 pm. "SOUTH OF NO NORTH", documentary on Hobart's Antarctic Connections. New date. (Not QUANTUM)
??	December	2000	Launch of new Australian Antarctic Division website.

11	October	2000	Sydney, N.S.W.	Presentations by Peter Treseder on his 1999-2000 cross-Antarctic attempt. Contact jodyh@hansw.org.au
16	October	2000	Canberra, A.C.T.	
19	October	2000	Newcastle, N.S.W.	
25	October	2000	Brisbane, Queensland	
1	November	2000	Melbourne, Victoria	
3	November	2000	Hobart, Tasmania	
7	November	2000	Adelaide, S. Australia	
14	November	2000	Perth, W. Australia	

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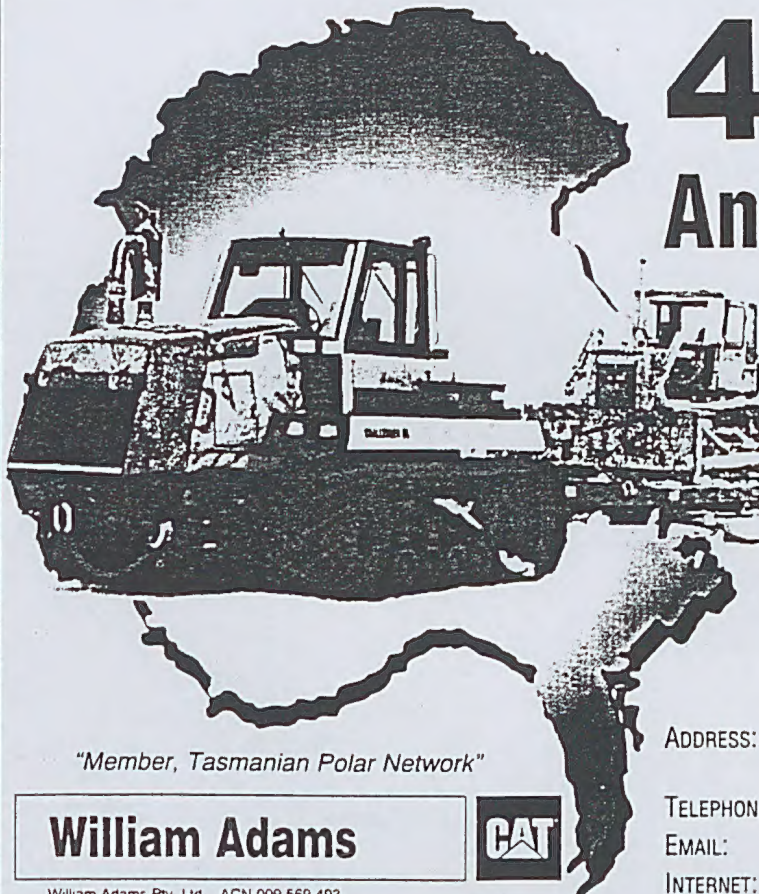
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THE BACK PAGE

ANTARCTIC AND SOUTHERN OCEAN SHIPPING CALENDAR

2	October	2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Departs Hobart for Port Arthur, Tas.
4-7	October	2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Marine Science.
7	October	2000	POLAR BIRD V2	Departs Fremantle, W.A.
8	October	2000	SEVEN SEAS NAVIGATOR	Arrives Hobart, departs for NZ.
8	October	2000	CRYSTAL HARMONY	Arrives Hobart.
16-20	October	2000	POLAR BIRD V2	Heard Island.
19-24	October	2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Davis Station.
24	October	2000	CRYSTAL HARMONY	Arrives Hobart.
29 1	October November	2000- 2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Mawson Station.
1-4	November	2000	POLAR BIRD V2	Arrives Hobart, loads for Macquarie Is.
6-8	November	2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Heard Island.
7-12	November	2000	POLAR BIRD V3	Macquarie Island.
16-19	November	2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Fremantle, W.A.
18-19	November	2000	POLAR BIRD V3	Marine Science. Bio sea ice study.
23-27	November	2000	POLAR BIRD V3	Casey Station.
26	November	2000	REGAL PRINCESS	Arrives Hobart, departs for NZ.
28-30	November	2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Heard Island.
4-8	December	2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Mawson Station.
6-9	December	2000	POLAR BIRD V3	Arrives Hobart, loads for Casey Station.
11	December	2000	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V5.1	Departs for Dunedin, NZ.
13-14	December	2000	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V5.1	Campbell Is.
13-14	December	2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Davis Station.
15-17	December	2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Sansom Island.
16	December	2000	REGAL PRINCESS	Arrives Hobart from NZ.
16-17	December	2000	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V5.1	Macquarie Island.
16-20	December	2000	NATHANIEL. B. PALMER	US Icebreaker visits Hobart.
18	December	2000	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Davis Station.
19-20	December	2000	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V5.1	Auckland Islands.
20	December	2000	BREMEN	Arrives Hobart, departs for NZ.